

Hearing on Certain Expiring Tax Provisions”

TO: The U.S. House Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures

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(text on pages 2 and 3)

I am writing the committee as a concerned citizen, taxpayer and voter, to end more subsidies for the "wind industry" in this country. I ask the committee not to support more renewals of the various, exorbitant, and long running subsidies for this industry. I urge you to end the PTC-Production Tax Credit, the Investment Tax Credit, and other special federal support for this industry.

The wind industry has made extravagant claims for years, but has failed to live up to them. It has enticed us with the idea that wind is free-and it is a clean, cheap alternative that will solve our energy demands. In fact, wind barely made a dent in our electricity generation needs, and also failed to make any contribution to helping the environment. Without subsidies, there would be no wind industry-and with all the taxpayer money they have received over the last 20 years; they still cannot make it as a real business.

They are not really a business at all, but a clever scam, playing on the idealistic hopes of American environmentalists, by using massive amounts of tax dollars for unwarranted gain.

Particularly in the economic situation we find ourselves in we can no longer afford to waste precious taxpayer dollars on an unproductive technology. What is even more outrageous is the fact that much of this money does not even go to US companies. Congress must put an end to this! The turbines themselves are mostly manufactured in China at this point. Vestas, the Danish company which produces many of the turbines used in the US, is manufacturing more in China now. GE, which claims to be a US company, actually produces its turbines in China, and calls them American made because of some minor assembling in the US.

The claim that the wind industry creates green jobs, is just that, a claim. What are these jobs, and where are they? Other than the initial construction (since the turbines themselves are not manufactured here) largely requiring a specialized crew which goes from project to project-the projects are remotely controlled and require no manpower.

In my region of upstate NY, where wind projects disrupt communities, degrade lifestyles, despoil the countryside, devastate property values and result in lawsuits and

bitterness-the companies behind the domestic LLC's are all foreign owned. In every case I'm aware of they have been Spanish, French or Irish.

The turbines which at best are 30% efficient (and in the summer when the power is needed as low as 10%), never produce anything resembling what they are rated for. The power when it is generated is fed into the power grid-not used locally. The regular power companies are forced to purchase this electricity which can be 3,4, 5 times more expensive than what they are paying for conventional sources of electricity-who then pass these higher costs on to the consumer. The turbine projects draw large amounts of power from the grid to enable them to operate properly-and the wind industry will not reveal the full power use required, versus the amounts that may be generated.

If this technology were truly making a contribution to our energy needs, and helping the environment (it is said that world wide not one conventional power plant has ever been closed due to wind power) then-in appropriate locations-support could be justified. But it's doing none of that.

Therefore, again, I call on the committee, indeed all members of congress, to end this wasteful feeding trough for an industry that has failed the test of time-and must either stand on its own, or stop begging for handouts from the American taxpayer.

